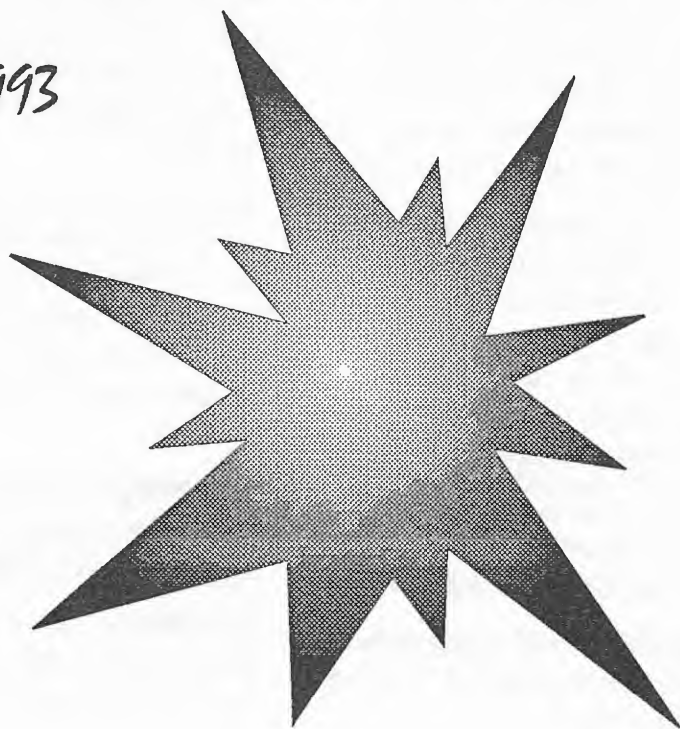


# The SPARK!

Programme discussion bulletin

June 1993



published by the Programme Commission,  
Communist Party of Canada

June 11, 1993

The December 1992 Convention of the Communist Party decided that, with a target date of 1995, a Special Convention should be held specifically devoted to revamping the Party Programme, with at least a year of specially intensive programme discussion before that.

To organize discussion (beginning immediately) and to work on drafts, the Convention elected a Programme Commission. On the Commission are Maggie Bizzell, Chris Frazer, Danny Goldstick (convenor), David Leadbeater, and Bill Stewart.

Communications for the Commission should be sent to the address of the Toronto party office (see addresses on the back page). The Commission would like to receive comments from Party members (and, for that matter, non-members) on any topic, but especially, to start with, on the following questions:

1. How far will the way that our previous programme, *The Road to Socialism in Canada*, is set up do for what we need?
2. Should we have a programme longer than *The Road to Socialism in Canada*? Shorter? The same length?
3. Just how *thoroughly* should we try to analyze the class and political forces existing in Canada at the end of the twentieth century?
4. How *detailed* a description should we attempt of Canada's transition to socialism? of socialism? of communism?
5. Does the goal of an "anti-monopoly state" on the way to socialism, as explained in *The Road to Socialism in Canada*, still stand up today?
6. Do we agree with the 1990 CPC Convention's view that in a socialist Canada allowing free speech even for (peaceful) opponents of socialism can be *less* dangerous than banning it? *more* dangerous? or is that unwarranted crystal-ball gazing at this stage?
7. To what extent can we — to what extent should we — project patriotic resistance to the division of the capitalist world into blocs, with capitalist Canada in the US-led bloc? What kind of patriotic anti-imperialist class alliance is realistically possible in Canada?
8. Do we need to change the way we've placed the question of Quebec in Canada in *The Road to Socialism in Canada*?
9. How do Canada's aboriginal peoples differ from, e.g., oppressed immigrant communities? Do the native people form a nation? Are they many nations? Is there any difference on this score between "status" and "non-status" native Canadians?
10. How much, and what, should we — can we — say about the pluses and the minuses of the twentieth-century experience of socialism in the USSR, China, Cuba,

Poland, etc.?

11. How do we see the fight for world peace today? Can thermonuclear war be avoided? How?

12. What are the realistic prospects and consequences of Third World anti-imperialism?

13. How do we see the different sectors of the Canadian working class and their roles in class struggle in the light of the scientific and technological revolution of today?

14. How do we see the role of women and the women's movement today? in the transition to socialism? and under socialism?

15. How do we see the role of the trade unions and other social movements of the Canadian people today? in the transition to socialism? and under socialism?

16. In what terms should we explain the need for a Leninist party? What do we understand *democratic centralism* to involve?

17. What sort of relations do we project with the communist parties of other countries? in opposition? and in government?

Responses from individuals or clubs on these or other questions will be circulated.

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*Here is a communication from Bill Stewart (Peachland, B.C.):*

At this time, I think the best interests of the party would be served by focusing the main energy of the membership and the leadership on examining those elements of policy and program which relate most directly to the nature of the crisis plaguing Canada, as part of the imperialist world. And flowing from this, to develop an alternative program for labour and the democratic forces.

This is not to shut off or in any way preclude discussions on other aspects of a program, but rather to concentrate our rather limited re-

sources on the most pressing matters facing the working class and most Canadians.

Such areas I would suggest, are the following:

- § International economic and political relations and the balance of forces in the world-threat to world peace, etc.
- § Alternative economic program for Canada.
- § Updating our positions where necessary on Quebec and the aboriginal peoples.
- § Defining the role and changes in the composition of the working class.
- § Alliances, in terms of today's battles as well



as in relationship to our strategic aim, socialism.

There are no simple answers to any of the above matters, but they have two redeeming features — (1) they relate to the major problems facing Canadians and their solutions and (2) they are at the centre of the struggles of the Canadian people.

As a footnote to the above, it is worth noting that the Canadian party program was not WRITTEN; it was born out of the struggles of the Canadian and International working class and its Communists parties. It was the summation of all these experiences.

In revising or re-writing the program (and I think the Party has yet to determine which of the these options is required) the Party will be required not only to take into considera-

tion these experiences, but to consider two additional ingredients. One — errors which may have been made as a result of incorrect theoretical conclusions and two — the entirely new tasks before us flowing out of the qualitative change in the character of the productive forces and the drive of world imperialism to re-arrange the entire world economic structure, to bend these changes to its advantage.

Here we have little experience to draw on and it is not too abstract to suggest that it is precisely through our own experiences in the course of ensuing battles, along with those of the other parties, the working class and democratic movements as a whole, that more cogent answers to these questions will emerge.

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### *How to reach the Programme Commission:*

As of August 1, the new address of the Communist Party of Canada will be:

290A Danforth Ave.  
Toronto, Ontario  
M4K 1N6

Our phone number will also change, and we'll provide it at our old number before we move ((416) 651-8210). In case you haven't heard the new number from us, you can find the new number by calling 411 locally, or (free) (416) 555-1212.